

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3100

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## AN ACT

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit telemarketers from interfering with the caller identification service of any person to whom a telephone solicitation is made, and for other purposes.



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To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit telemarketers from interfering with the caller identification service of any person to whom a telephone solicitation is made, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2   *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Know Your Caller Act  
3 of 2000”.

4 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION OF INTERFERENCE WITH CALLER**  
5 **IDENTIFICATION SERVICES.**

6       Section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47  
7 U.S.C. 227) is amended—

8           (1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as  
9 subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

10          (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-  
11 lowing new subsection:

12       “(e) PROHIBITION ON INTERFERENCE WITH CALLER  
13 IDENTIFICATION SERVICES.—

14           “(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any  
15 person within the United States, in making any tele-  
16 phone solicitation—

17           “(A) to interfere with or circumvent the  
18 capability of a caller identification service to ac-  
19 cess or provide to the recipient of the telephone  
20 call involved in the solicitation any information  
21 regarding the call that such service is capable  
22 of providing; and

23           “(B) to fail to provide caller identification  
24 information in a manner that is accessible by a  
25 caller identification service, if such person has

1           capability to provide such information in such a  
2           manner.

3           For purposes of this section, the use of a tele-  
4           communications service or equipment that is incapa-  
5           ble of transmitting caller identification information  
6           shall not, of itself, constitute interference with or  
7           circumvention of the capability of a caller identifica-  
8           tion service to access or provide such information.

9           “(2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 6 months  
10          after the enactment of the Know Your Caller Act of  
11          2000, the Commission shall prescribe regulations to  
12          implement this subsection, which shall—

13                 “(A) specify that the information regard-  
14                 ing a call that the prohibition under paragraph  
15                 (1) applies to includes—

16                         “(i) the name of the person or entity  
17                         who makes the telephone call involved in  
18                         the solicitation;

19                         “(ii) the name of the person or entity  
20                         on whose behalf the solicitation is made;  
21                         and

22                         “(iii) a valid and working telephone  
23                         number at which the person or entity on  
24                         whose behalf the telephone solicitation is  
25                         made may be reached during regular busi-

1           ness hours for the purpose of requesting  
2           that the recipient of the solicitation be  
3           placed on the do-not-call list required  
4           under section 64.1200 of the Commission’s  
5           regulations (47 CFR 64.1200) to be main-  
6           tained by such person or entity; and

7           “(B) provide that any person or entity who  
8           receives a request from a person to be placed on  
9           such do-not-call list may not use such person’s  
10          name and telephone number for telemarketing,  
11          mail marketing, or other marketing purpose  
12          (including transfer or sale to any other entity  
13          for marketing use) other than enforcement of  
14          such list.

15          “(3) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—A person or  
16          entity may, if otherwise permitted by the laws or  
17          rules of court of a State, bring in an appropriate  
18          court of that State—

19                 “(A) an action based on a violation of this  
20                 subsection or the regulations prescribed under  
21                 this subsection to enjoin such violation;

22                 “(B) an action to recover for actual mone-  
23                 tary loss from such a violation, or to receive  
24                 \$500 in damages for each such violation, which-  
25                 ever is greater; or

1 “(C) both such actions.

2 If the court finds that the defendant willfully or  
3 knowingly violated this subsection or the regulations  
4 prescribed under this subsection, the court may, in  
5 its discretion, increase the amount of the award to  
6 an amount equal to not more than 3 times the  
7 amount available under subparagraph (B) of this  
8 paragraph.

9 “(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-  
10 section:

11 “(A) CALLER IDENTIFICATION SERVICE.—

12 The term ‘caller identification service’ means  
13 any service or device designed to provide the  
14 user of the service or device with the telephone  
15 number of an incoming telephone call.

16 “(B) TELEPHONE CALL.—The term ‘tele-  
17 phone call’ means any telephone call or other  
18 transmission which is made to or received at a  
19 telephone number of any type of telephone serv-  
20 ice and includes telephone calls made using the  
21 Internet (irrespective of the type of customer  
22 premises equipment used in connection with  
23 such services). Such term also includes calls  
24 made by an automatic telephone dialing system,

1 an integrated services digital network, and a  
2 commercial mobile radio source.”.

3 **SEC. 3. EFFECT ON STATE LAW AND STATE ACTIONS.**

4 (a) EFFECT ON STATE LAW.—Subsection (f)(1) of  
5 section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47  
6 U.S.C. 227(f)(1)), as so redesignated by section 2(1) of  
7 this Act, is further amended by inserting after “subsection  
8 (d)” the following: “and the prohibition under paragraphs  
9 (1) and (2) of subsection (e),”.

10 (b) ACTIONS BY STATES.—The first sentence of sub-  
11 section (g)(1) of section 227 of the Communications Act  
12 of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(g)(1)), as so redesignated by sec-  
13 tion 2(1) of this Act, is further amended by striking “tele-  
14 phone calls” and inserting “telephone solicitations, tele-  
15 phone calls, or”.

16 **SEC. 4. STUDY REGARDING TRANSMISSION OF CALLER**  
17 **IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION.**

18 The Federal Communications Commission shall con-  
19 duct a study to determine—

20 (1) the extent of the capability of the public  
21 switched network to transmit the information that  
22 can be accessed by caller identification services;

23 (2) the types of telecommunications equipment  
24 being used in the telemarketing industry, the extent  
25 of such use, and the capabilities of such types of



1 equipment to transmit the information that can be  
2 accessed by caller identification services; and

3 (3) the changes to the public switched network  
4 and to the types of telecommunications equipment  
5 commonly being used in the telemarketing industry  
6 that would be necessary to provide for the public  
7 switched network to be able to transmit caller identi-  
8 fication information on all telephone calls, and the  
9 costs (including costs to the telemarketing industry)  
10 to implement such changes.

11 The Commission shall complete the study and submit a  
12 report to the Congress on the results of the study, not  
13 later than one year after the date of the enactment of this  
14 Act.

Passed the House of Representatives September 27,  
2000.

Attest:

*Clerk.*